

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a server in a telecommunication system for controlling codec selection by the server, said telecommunication system including a first physical network, a second physical network, and endpoint devices connected to said first and second physical networks, wherein the networks offer each endpoint device a bandwidth capacity, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing information related to at least one funnel network element that links said first and second physical networks and imposes bandwidth limitations on communications passing through the funnel network element, said information including an address associated with said funnel network element, and said funnel network element being selected from a group consisting of a remote access server (RAS), a router, and a bridge;

(b) receiving a communication request from a first one of the endpoint devices, said request containing a set of advertised codecs for said communication;

(c) sending an address detection message towards said first endpoint device; and

(d) selecting at least one of said advertised codecs for being used for said communication, the selection being performed depending upon whether an answer to said address detection message includes said address of said funnel network element.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said stored information related to the funnel network element further includes information about the bandwidth supported for communications through said funnel network element, and wherein the selection of step (d) further depends on said bandwidth information.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the stored information related to the funnel network element further comprises information about the codecs supported for communication through said funnel network element, and wherein the selection of step (d) further depends on said codec information.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said address detection message is a path-discovery message.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said path-discovery message is a TRACEROUTE message.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said address detection message is an address-resolution message.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said address-resolution message is an ARP message.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling codec selection in a server of a telecommunication system, said telecommunication system including at least a first physical network, a second physical network, and a plurality of endpoint devices connected to said first and second physical networks, each of said physical networks offering each endpoint device a bandwidth capacity, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a call control processor for receiving a communication request from a first one of the endpoint devices, said request containing a set of advertised codecs for said communication;

(b) a database for storing information related to at least one funnel network element that links said first and second physical networks and imposes bandwidth limitations on communications passing through the funnel network element, said information including at least one address associated with said funnel network element, and said funnel network element being selected from a group consisting of a remote access server (RAS), a router, and a bridge;

(c) a funnel detection unit for sending an address detection message towards said endpoint ; and

(d) a codec selection unit for selecting at least one of said advertised codecs to be used for said communication, the selection being dependent upon whether an answer to said address detection message includes said at least one address of said funnel network element.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said stored information related to the funnel network element further includes information about the bandwidth supported for communication through said funnel network element, and wherein the codec selection unit (d) selects at least one of the codecs based on the bandwidth information.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the stored information related to the funnel network element further includes information about the codecs supported for a communication through said funnel network element, and wherein the codec selection unit (d) selects at least one of the codecs based on the codec information.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said address detection message is a path-discovery message.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said path-discovery message is a TRACEROUTE message.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said address detection message is an address-resolution message.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said address resolution message is an ARP message.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting at least one of the advertised codecs for being used for the communication includes:

receiving the answer to the address detection message;

determining whether the answer includes the address of the funnel network element; and

selecting a codec based upon bandwidth limitations imposed by the funnel network element if the address of the funnel network element is included in the answer.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the funnel detection unit includes:

means for receiving the answer to the address detection message; and

means for determining whether the answer includes the address of the funnel network element;

wherein the codec selection unit selects a codec based upon bandwidth limitations imposed by the funnel network element if the address of the funnel network element is included in the answer.